have had grave doubts of his fitness to succeed to the Throne, and unfavourable signs and portents were remembered,[36] at the time no such doubts were given public expression, or other than favourable portents noticed. A discerning eye might have seen an ill-omen for his reign, more than in any horoscope, in the fact that his companion, when he watched the heralds proclaiming his accession, was an American lady, Mrs. Ernest Simpson, who had divorced one husband, and was soon to divorce another. Such discerning eyes were few, if only because the photograph taken on this occasion was, at the time, withheld from publication.

Mrs. Simpson's first newspaper appearance after King Edward came to the throne, was in what is ordinarily the last place journalists or their readers look for sensational matter—the Court Circular. She appeared there as having dined with the King, along with her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin, Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh, and others. Some eyebrows were raised, but not many. The Court Circular is not widely read, and most, carelessly scanning it, would find nothing outrageous in unknown and apparently innocuous, names appearing there as well as known ones.

Gradually, however, though all newspapers, even the *Daily Worker,* scrupulously observed their self-denying ordinance to avoid mention of Mrs. Simpson, the number of those who knew of the King's intimacy with her, increased. Rumours spread easily, particularly such rumours, and when there is no published or broadcast information, speculation is

unimpeded. In any case, the American Press soon threw itself with characteristic energy and thoroughness into the task of publicising Mrs. Simpson and her royal friendship, finding the theme one after its heart. Wires buzzed, ink flowed, correspondents were active, and impressive

[36] At King George V's funeral, *as the gun-carriage bearing the coffin crossed the tramlines at the corner of Theobald's Road, the ball of diamonds, topped by a sapphire cross, fell from the Imperial Crown and rolled from. the coffin to the roadway ' *His Was The Kingdom* by Frank Owen and R. J. Thompson,